

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

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R 160849Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9706

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISS BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 3598

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: CY RO PFOR MOPS

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN CONCERN OVER SPREAD OF CYPRUS CONFLICT

REF: BUCHAREST 9408 (NOTAL)

1. DURING CONVERSATION AUGUST 15 ON PRG REPRESENTATION AT POPULATION CONFERENCE, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF STATE EMIL BODNARAS, WHILE IMPUGNING SOVIET MOTIVES ON THIS SCORE, DIGRESSED TO TALK ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF CYPRUS FLARE-UP PARALLELING LINE TAKEN BY MACOVESCU (REFTEL), HE EXPLICITLY SAID ROMANIA IS WORRIED THAT IF THE GREEKS AND TURKS START FIGHTING THE SOVIETS WILL INVOKE THE WARSAW PACT AND SAY ITS MEMBERS NEED TO TAKE STEPS TO DEFEND THEMSELVES. IN THIS CASE THE ROMANIANS COULD HARDLY ARGUE THAT THE BALKANS WERE LIKE THE FAR EAST IN WHICH THEY HAD NO DIRECT INTEREST. IF THE SOVIETS PRESSED THIS LINE ABOUT THE PACT, BODNARAS SAID THIS COULD WELL TURN INTO DEMANDS FOR TRANSIT RIGHTS ACROSS ROMANIA. ONCE INSIDE, WHO KNOWS
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BUT THAT THE SOVIET VEHICLES MIGHT HAVE ENGINE

TROUBLE OR FLAT TIRES AND THEN WHERE WOULD ROMANIA
BE.

2. COMMENT: WHILE BODNARAS HAD NEVER HIDDEN HIS DEEP
DISTRUST OF SOVIET MOTIVES, HIS COMMENT ON THE
TRANSIT CORRIDOR QUESTION IN THE LIGHT OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION
SEEMED BASED ON GENUINE CONCERN.
BARNES

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NNN

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